

### **REMARKS**

Claims 4 and 11 have been amended to clarify the invention, and Claims 13 and 14 have been added. Support can be found on page 8, lines 13-16, and in Fig. 2; and on page 7, lines 14-16, and in Fig. 5, for example. Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 11 are pending in this application. The amendments do not constitute the addition of any new matter to the specification. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

#### **Drawings Objection**

The drawings are objected to because the lines in Figures 1 and 2 are not uniformly thick and well defined. Since the reason of the objection is non-uniform lines, corrected drawings have been submitted herewith as formal drawings, thereby obviating the objection. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

#### **Rejections of Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-3, 5, 9, 10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaRoche (U.S. Patent 5,128,203). The above claims have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, this rejection is moot.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anders (U.S. Patent 5,665,793 and 5,472,737). The above claims have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, this rejection is moot.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over each of: Custers et al. (U.S. Patent 6,305,874); Swemer (U.S. Patent 5,042,894); Eigenmann (U.S. Patent 4,993,868); and Wyckoff (U.S. Patent 4,069,787) in view of Johansson (U.S. Patent 6,190,085). Claims 4 and 11 have been amended and the remaining claims have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 4 and 11 as amended herein could not be obvious over the references as explained below.

As the Examiner asserts, each of the cited references discloses an optical fiber placed along a roadway. However, the optical fibers used in the references are structurally and method

logically distinct from an optical fiber used in the present invention. The optical fiber used in the present invention is shown in Figs. 2 and 5 of the present application and has two ends which senses blinking signals of the turn signal from one end facing a side of the second oncoming vehicle and reflects the light from the other end facing a front of the waiting vehicle, thereby effectively assisting the driver to make a left turn. This concept itself and the optical fiber having the specific configurations designed specifically for the purpose is not taught or suggested in the references.

Custers et al. (U.S. Patent 6,305,874): One end of the optical fiber, e.g., 285, faces a front of a car (Fig. 6B), but the remaining part of the optical fibers is placed in channels 81, 81', etc. (Fig. 4A, 4B). This reference is unrelated to the present invention.

Swemer (U.S. Patent 5,042,894): A fiber optic lighting system for signs has optical fibers 18 (Fig. 3). This reference is unrelated to the present invention.

Eigenmann (U.S. Patent 4,993,868): Three double LEDs 24 are placed so that their beams converge toward a car 26 (Fig. 3A). This reference is unrelated to the present invention.

Wyckoff (U.S. Patent 4,069,787): Highly reflective surface 4 and refractive cylinder 6 are used as a retroreflector direction indicator or marker (Figure). This reference is unrelated to the present invention.

Johansson (U.S. Patent 6,190,085): A central barrier 10 is provided with a fiber-optic cable or light guide 37 which is connected to a low voltage light source (col. 4, lines 39-41 and Figure 1). This reference is unrelated to the present invention.

None of the references teaches or even suggests the claimed specific configurations wherein one end of an optical fiber is installed to face a side of the second oncoming vehicle and the end is installed to face a front of the waiting vehicle. Further, none of the references teaches or even suggests the specific concept of assisting a driver who is making a left turn. A combination of the references could not lead to the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, the present invention could not be obvious over any of the references. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

#### New Claims

Appl. No. : 09/976,665  
Filed : October 10, 2001

Claims 13 and 14 have been added. The specific features recited in these claims are not taught or suggested by the references. These dependent claims are further distinguished from the references.

### CONCLUSION

In light of the Applicant's foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

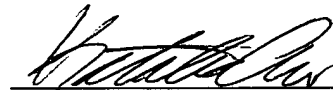
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: September 16, 2003

By:



Katsuhiro Arai  
Registration No. 43,315  
Agent of Record  
Customer No. 20,995  
(949) 760-0404

H:\DOCS\TOS\KO69A.001AUS.AMEND4.DOC  
091103